



Daily Business Report – March 26, 2012

Posted by Manny Cruz

San Diego to Get Electric Car Charging Stations

Diego to Get Electric Car Charging Stations A network of electric car-charging stations for zero-emission vehicles will be installed in San Diego County, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley as the result of the state's \$120 million settlement with NRG Energy Inc. The charging stations will include at least 200 public fast-charging stations and another 10,000 plug-in units at 1,000 locations across the state. Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Public Utilities Commission announced the program. The governor also announced that he has signed an executive order laying the foundation for 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California's roadways by 2025. The settlement resolves 10-year-old claims against Dynegy, the predecessor company to NRG Energy Inc., for costs of long-term power contracts signed in March 2001. Some \$100 million from the settlement will fund the fast-charging stations and the installation of the plug-in units and electrical upgrades, at no cost to taxpayers. The remaining \$20 million will be directed to ratepayer relief.

Tax Help for Restaurant Owners

Restaurant owners who have questions about state and federal tax laws can get answers at a free Restaurant Tax Seminar March 29 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club. Michelle Steel, vice chair of the state Board of Equalization, is the seminar sponsor, which will cover such topics as the sales and use tax, employment taxes, the marketing of restaurants, forms of ownership, financing a business and tip reporting. Representatives from the Board of Equalization, Franchise Tax Board, Internal Revenue Service, Employment Development Department, U.S. Small Business Administration, and the San Diego Small Business Development Center will be available to provide assistance. To register, call (888) 847-9652.

Seacoast Commerce Bank to Relocate Headquarters

Seacoast Commerce Bank announced that the FDIC has approved its applications to open a new full-service branch and relocate its corporate headquarters from Chula Vista. The bank has leased space in the Bernardo Town Center office complex at 11939 Rancho Bernardo Road in San Diego and intends to open a new full-service branch there, in addition to relocating all of its administrative, SBA, and Homeowners' Association Banking departments to the new location this summer. "We are very excited to open our second branch as it will complement our existing Chula Vista location and better equip us to service the needs of our clients not only in the South Bay, but throughout San Diego County," said Richard Sanborn president and chief executive officer.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving to Present Annual Awards

Mothers Against Drunk Driving will hold its annual recognition program honoring outstanding DUI officers of the year and prosecutors and community leaders on March 28 at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in Mission Valley. Besides the Outstanding DUI Officer of the Year awards, ceremonies this year will include numerous award categories including: Outstanding

Prosecutor of the Year, MADD Victim Impact Panel, Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, Century Awards, Top Arresting Officer and the Distinguished Service Award in memory of California Highway Patrol Officer, Christopher D. Lydon. Special Community Leader awards will be presented to non-law enforcement community members and partners. These awards will be presented with the help of this year's event presenting sponsor, The Gomez Law Firm.

K2 Insurance Services Acquires Stake in Louisville Agency

San Diego-based K2 Insurance Services has acquired a majority stake in Midwestern Insurance Alliance Inc., a managing general agency in Louisville, Ky., that underwrites workers compensation coverage with a focus on the transportation industry. The acquisition is the first for K2, which was formed in 2011 to invest in other managing general agencies, or MGAs, and build a national insurance program business franchise. Bob Kimmel is president of K2.

Biotech Demystified Offers Science Basics to Industry Leaders

UC San Diego will present Biotech Demystified on June 11-13, a program to help executives and decision makers get a practical understanding of the basic science powering the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. The program is offered through the Rady School of Management Center for Executive Development in collaboration with the Division of Biological Sciences and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Instructors include nine faculty members from UC San Diego. The course covers science fundamentals, stem cell research, risk management in life sciences, pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine, and cancer and therapeutic approaches. It also includes hands-on exercises in the lab setting. To learn more or to register for the program, visit rady.ucsd.edu/exec/open/biotech.

Access to Independence to Present 2012 Award Winners



Alex Montoya, manager of Latino relations for the San Diego Padres, and the Nice Guys charitable organization will receive awards on April 21 from Access to Independence, a nonprofit that provides services to people with disabilities. Montoya will receive the 2012 Lead On Award and Nice Guys will receive the Community Excellence Award during the awards gala at Loews

Coronado Bay Resort. Montoya, a triple prosthetics wearer, is being honored for his work with the Padres and his support for community organizations that assist people with disabilities. Nice Guys will be cited for its donations of more than \$12 million to worthy causes.

PERSONNEL MOVES

_____ El Centro — State Sen.

Juan Vargas (D-40th) has hired Gina Rodriguez Vargas (no relation), to serve as district representative in his Imperial County office. She will represent Vargas at community and civic meetings and events taking place in the Imperial County portion of the 40th Senate District. Vargas joined the senator's office following three years of working for the city of Brawley as a grants coordinator. She spent nearly 20 years working for the Center for Family Solutions in El Centro as deputy and assistant executive director. **San Diego** — Valerie Ellinor has been appointed strategic consultant at Success Communications Group's San Diego branch office. Before joining the company, Ellinor's 13-year career included experience in consulting, communications, marketing and new social media. **San Diego** — Real estate professional Robert Sizer has joined the Andrew Arroyo Real Estate, a residential real estate company serving San Diego County. Sizer is a native San Diegan and has been a licensed real estate agent since 1994. He owned and produced a real estate TV show for

three years and has been involved in more than 200 real estate transactions, brokering nearly \$100,000,000 to date. **San Diego** — Emily T. Gates and Nykia J. Wilson have joined the Wilson Turner Kosmo law firm's employment law practice. Both were previously with Luce Forward for several years. Gates obtained her law degree from USC and bachelor's degree from UCLA. She is an adjunct professor at San Diego State, where she teaches human resource management and the law. Wilson received her law degree and bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. She is a mentor at the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and member of of Lawyers Club of San Diego, San Diego County Bar Association, and Society for Human Resource Management (national and San Diego chapters). **Coronado** — Navy Capt. Donald R. Shunkwiler will relinquish command of Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific to Capt. Humberto L. Quintanilla II during a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Shunkwiler will retire after 30 years of naval service. Quintanilla served as the commander, Amphibious Squadron FIVE in San Diego. California.



Small Business Workshops

Helping startup and established small businesses throughout San Diego and Imperial counties prosper, SCORE San Diego continues its series of low-cost workshops. Workshop fees range from \$29 to \$109, depending on the program. For more information, call (619) 557-7272. Upcoming Workshops: **March 9** – Business Basics 101 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at SCORE Entrepreneur Center (550 West C St., #550, San Diego 92101; No charge – please pre-register). **March 10** – Introduction to Starting Your Own Business – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at National University

Kearney Mesa (9388 Lightwave Ave., San Diego 92123; pre-paid registration \$69, \$79 at the door). **March 12** – Financing Your Business – 9 a.m. to noon at SCORE Entrepreneur Center (550 West St., #550, San Diego 92101; pre-paid registration \$29, \$39 at the door).

The Daily Business Report is produced by REP Publishing Inc., publisher of SD METRO, the North Park News and the West Coast Craftsman. Contact: Manny Cruz (619) 287-1865. manny@sandiegometro.com.

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